

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject in claims 6, 7, 8, 12, 15-18, and 21-33.

Claims 6, 17 and 26 stand objected to due to a formality.

In response, the pertinent phrases have been changed to "forming a shaped hollow article from," "forming a glass tube from," and "forming a shaped bulb from," respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully present that these claims reflect correct idiomatic English and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 13, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking proper written description in the specification. As these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to advance prosecution of this application, the Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications, containing claims reciting subject matter recited by these now-cancelled claims.

Claims 26-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the invention.

The Office Action takes issue with the phrase "the bulb having a desired shape" in claims 26 and 28. In response, claims 26 and 28 have been amended to recite "a shaped bulb."

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bryant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,443). Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,811). However, as each of claims 1-5, 9-11, 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot.

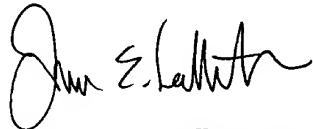
In view of the above, entry of the above-amendments is submitted to be warranted because the only amendments are to cancel rejected claims and to comply with matters of form. The amendments are considered non-narrowing, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto. It is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome.

Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any additional fee is necessary to make this amendment complete,

it may be charged to the undersigned's deposit account number 19-4375.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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